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TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [MNUC](#) [AORC](#) [KNNP](#) [NL](#) [UNGA](#) [CDG](#) [UNDC](#)

SUBJECT: DUTCH MFA ON 58TH UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE FOLLOW-UP
DEMARCHE

REF: SECSTATE 295420

Classified By: Acting Political Counselor Nathaniel Dean for reasons 1.
5 (b and d)

1. (C) Summary: PolOff delivered reftel demarche on the 58th UNGA First Committee to Peter Potman, MFA Deputy Head of Nuclear Affairs and Non-Proliferation Division on October 20.

Potman said the draft resolution and accompanying U.S. points were extensively discussed last week in New York, and there is little difference between the U.S. and Dutch positions. However, he said many EU countries see problems with the first preambulatory paragraph of the draft resolution, which specifically ties the exercise to September 11, and therefore ignores the presence of non-U.S. national security issues in existence prior to September 11. According to Potman, the Dutch were also concerned with what he described as a letter from the U.S. Mission to the UN purportedly suggesting the U.S. would have little use for the First Committee if it did not improve. Potman cited the necessity for the UN to act as a forum for different ideas to be considered regardless of agreement. End Summary.

2. (C) PolOff delivered reftel demarche on the 58th UNGA First Committee to Peter Potman, MFA Deputy Head of Nuclear Affairs and Non-Proliferation Division on October 20. Potman said the draft resolution and accompanying U.S. points were extensively discussed last week in New York, and there is little difference between the U.S. and Dutch positions. He hopes to get a read-out from the Dutch delegation by the end of this week on the New York meetings, but reiterated Dutch share U.S. concerns about the First Committee and support efforts to reinvigorate it. Personally, Potman said he found Point C of the U.S. paper circulated in the First Committee to be interesting, but also foresees political problems with this regional approach. He thinks the gist of the resolution is "fully acceptable," and there will be large support from the EU. Potman cautioned however that he is unaware if the support will result in a consensus, as he has yet to confer with the Dutch delegation in New York.

3. (C) Potman said many EU countries have problems with the first preambulatory paragraph of the draft resolution, which specifically ties the exercise to September 11. Many EU members see it as a broader issue concerning security issues, which existed prior to September 11, and therefore do not feel the language of the first preambulatory paragraph is "appropriate." He again stated that determination of support for the resolution is decided in New York, but "anything that will increase the effectiveness of the First Committee will have the Netherlands' blessing." Potman raised an issue not directly in the U.S. paper, but of concern to the Dutch. According to Potman, the Dutch were also concerned with what he described as a letter from the U.S. Mission to the UN purportedly suggesting the U.S. would have little use for the First Committee if it did not improve. Potman said the UNGA and its First Committee is the "marketplace for ideas." While we may not always agree, and the price paid is sometimes a lengthier path to solution, the Dutch believe the UN is precisely where divergent views should be taken into consideration.

SOBEL